

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telefaxed sketch clarifying his interpretation of the receiving space profiled in the centrifugal mass disclosed in Figure 1 of Heyden et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,388,348. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish from the disclosure of this patent.

Claims 1-8, 11-19, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Heyden. To the extent that this reference would be applied against claims as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

Heyden discloses a centrifugal mass (flywheel 24) fixed to a drive shaft 12 by bolts 18, 20. The flywheel is profiled with a cylindrical space located between these bolts and radially aligned with an electric machine 48. The clutch 40 and actuating device 42 are located in a space which is continuous with the cylindrical space, but are axially spaced from the cylindrical space, which is empty. There is no disclosure or suggestion that any clutch component be located within the cylindrical space. Likewise Heyden does not disclose or suggest any clutch component radially aligned with the electric machine.

Only applicants have realized the economy of axial space which can be achieved by locating a clutch component in radial alignment with the electric machine. Specific embodiments are shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4 of the present application.

The claims as amended being definite and clearly patentable over the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited. Since claim 1 is generic to withdrawn claims, re-entry and allowance of these claims is also solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 1, 2006